

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 /094 W

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R 061220Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9866

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, AG, MO

SUBJECT: MUBARAK CLAIMS MOROCCAN, AND ALGERIAN FONMINS WILL MEET

REF: CAIRO 1549

1. SUPPLEMENTING CAIRO RADIO'S REPORT OF VP MUBARAK'S
ARRIVAL STATEMENT FEBRUARY 5 (REFTEL), AHAM FEBRUARY 6
CITES EGYPT'S SAHARA MEDIATOR AS SAYING GOM AND GOA HAVE
AGREED TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL THAT ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN
FONMINS SHOULD MEET. EGYPTIAN FONMIN WOULD BE "WELCOME"
AT SUCH MEETING, BUT DATE AND VENUE ARE STILL UNDER
NEGOTIATION.

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ACCORDING TO AHAM ACCOUNT, AT ONE POINT ALGERIA AGREED TO MEET IN GENEVA, WHILE MOROCCANS PREFERRED CARO OR POSSIBLY RIYADH. LARAKI IS QUOTED AS HINTING TO MUBARAK THAT MOROCCANS REFUSED GENEVA VENUE BECAUSE OF CONNOTATION THAT MEETING THERE WOULD "INTERNATIONALIZE" THE SAHARA ISSUE.

2. OVERALL THRUST OF REPORTING IS THAT MUBARAK DID SUCCEED DESPITE JALLUD'S EFFORTS PREJUDICE ALGERIAN'S AGAINST HIM AND DESPITE FACT THAT MOROCCO AND ALGERIA ARE STILL FAR APART IN BOTH ENDING THE FIGHTING AND PAVING WAY TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENTARY IN AHAM AND GUMHURIYYA TAKE SIMILAR LINE, COUPLED WITH BACKHANDED SWIPE AT SYRIA. BOTH PAPERS STRESS EGYPTIAN MEDIATION UNLIKE SOME OTHER EFFORTS STEMS FROM GOE DETERMINATION PUT ARAB NATIONAL INTEREST ABOVE PARTISAN AUCTIONEERING.

4. COMMENT:JUDGING FROM REPORTING FROM ALGIERSAND RABAT (ALGIERS 299, RABAT 646), MUBARAK HAS NOT SCORED ANY SPECIFIC SUCCESS. IN LOCAL TERMS HOWEVER, SINCE FIGHTING HAS APPARENTLY CEASED MUBARAK LOOKS PRETTY GOOD ESPECIALLY SINCE SYRIAN ENVOY WAS APPARENTLY UNABLE SCORE ANY POINTS AT ALL AND ACTUALLY LEFT DIPLOMATIC FIELD TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS. PAROCHIAL CONSIDERATIONS

ASIDE, SADAT, WHO UNDERSTANDS GRAVITY OF SAHARA SITUATION, CAN BE COUNTED ON TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO HELP. BESIDES, EGYPT'S ROLE AS MEDIATOR RELIEVES ANY PRESSURE TO TAKE SIDES. EILTS

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